

APPENDIX I

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory-Nomination Form
for the
H. Grant Tenancy Site
7NC-B-6

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Tenancy Site, H. Grant Property (7NC-B-6)

and/or common Aletta Laird Downs Property

2. Location

street & number Located in NW quadrant of intersection of Rte. 48
Lancaster Pike, and Rt. 141, Centre Road ☒ not for publicationcity, town Wilmington ☒ vicinity of

state Delaware code 10 county New Castle code 002

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Aletta Laird Downs

street & number Rte. 48 Lancaster Pike & 141 Centre Road

city, town Wilmington ☒ vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds
New Castle County Courthouse

street & number City-County Building

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

William P. Barse
title 1984 Phase I & II Archeological has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no
Investigations of the Rt. 141 Corridor, New Castle County, DE. Delaware Department of Transportation Archeology Series 33, Dover, DE. ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local
March 1985 140

depository for survey records Del. Department of Transportation

city, town Dover state DE

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>ca. 1843</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The H. Grant tenancy site was identified as the result of a reconnaissance survey, and additional data was gathered during an intensive survey of this location. This assessment was carried out for the Delaware Department of Transportation to fulfill their obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to evaluate the effects of the proposed improvements to Delaware Route 141 on significant or potentially significant cultural resources, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 1202). The site is located just to the north of the Lancaster Pike (Delaware Route 48) on the east side of Little Mill Creek and west of Route 141 (Figs. 1&2, Plate 1)

The significant component of the site is a nineteenth century occupation which appears to be a tenancy associated with the larger plantation complex identified on maps and in deed research as belonging to W. Tatnall, Henry Grant, John Peoples, and others. A pre-historic component, consisting of a chipping scatter is also present, but is not regarded as significant.

The site is located adjacent to an intermittent spring run which forms the northern boundary of the site, at the edge of the rather steep-sided valley of Little Mill Creek. The boundaries of the site were determined by the limits of artifact scatter observed in the test units on the east and west, and by the limits of construction disturbance for the present alignment of Lancaster Pike on the south.

It is not entirely clear where the exact position of the 19th century alignment of the Lancaster Pike is, but it is presumed to be beneath the present paved alignment (or destroyed by the construction of the present alignment). Other than highway improvements, the land use of the surrounding area is in substantially the same condition as during the site occupation: agriculture. The site is presently in pasture, and the thickness of the root mat suggests that it has been so for some time. However, a plow zone is present throughout the site, suggesting that the site area was cultivated after it ceased to function as a domestic residence.

Eleven 50 cm. shovel tests were distributed across the site area during reconnaissance survey to identify the limits of the artifact scatter and to evaluate the likelihood for sub-plow-zone features. Some of the latter, including a segment of structure foundation, (Square F) were identified in the placement of five foot by five foot test squares during the site testing program. A number of post-molds were identified suggesting the presence of support features and spatial distribution data. The variety of functional classes included in the artifact inventory support the attribution of this site as a residential site, and the integrity of the sub-plow-zone features suggests that significant data are present. The fact that the site has been plowed represents only a minor limitation in the data base, since the ability of plowed historic sites to retain spatial patterning of artifact distributions is clearly established by field research (Plates 2,3, & 4).

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The H. Grant Tenancy Site (7NC-B-6) is significant because it is likely to contribute data important in the understanding of the history of this area and the surrounding region. Test excavations revealed that artifact distribution data are present in the plow zone, and that remains of structures and other facilities are present undisturbed below the plow zone. This will allow the characterization of spatial patterning for this common but uninvestigated site type. The following discussion provides a context within which to evaluate the research values of the site.

Delaware was settled by the Dutch in 1630, with the establishment of a whaling station near Lewes. This was soon destroyed by the Indians. The Swedes settled in the vicinity of Wilmington with the establishment of Fort Christina in 1638. This was captured by the Dutch in 1651. Settlement was characterized by scattered farmsteads along the major drainages, the Delaware River, White Clay Creek and Christina Creek (Weslager 1961).

The English obtained control of Delaware in 1664, which was followed by the granting of proprietary rights to William Penn in 1682. This placed Delaware under control of Philadelphia, both economically and politically. Although subsistence farming continued, commercial centers were beginning to be established to channel goods to Philadelphia. Such centers were Christina, Stanton and Ogletown. Throughout the 18th century, the increasing population stimulated the development of new towns and the development of more effective communication networks. This was especially apparent after the development of the towns of Baltimore and Annapolis.

The 19th century saw the development of canals and railroads to accommodate the commercial trade between these towns. The Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad was begun in 1839. However, the road system of Delaware lagged considerably behind the railroads as a means of transportation. Settlement in the 19th century was characterized by the large plantations and associated small tenant farms, as well as with the urban areas associated with the commercial towns.

A gradual change in the role of the farm occurred from the 18th through to the 19th centuries. During the 18th century, farming was primarily oriented to the production of goods for subsistence, a pattern that changed gradually to one involving production of goods for consumption on the growing national market. This change ties in with the growing industrial and urban centers in the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Baltimore corridor that was under way in the early 19th century noted above. While this scenario is known on a large scale, how the changing economic framework of the area affected the local household in terms of the organization of material culture is unknown, and accessible only archeologically. One would expect to witness a changing access to goods and the development of differing patterns of consumption based on economic status, as well as a growing diversity in patterns of land usage. Questions concerning what percentage of the population remained on a subsistence level as opposed to those engaged in production for market consumption are unknown, and would be most accessible through archeological investigations.

Deed research revealed that this location was consistently part of a sizeable plantation, and map research indicates that the principal residence of the owners is in the

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location presently occupied by the owner, facing Centre Road (Rt. 141). A structure does appear at the tenancy site on one of the several maps that cover the area and show dwellings, the Eckel Map of 1860. The variety and distribution of the artifacts, as well as the subsurface features, suggest that this site was a domestic site, and since the principal residence on the property is already accounted for, a tenancy is implied.

A number of specific research questions can be addressed using the data present at 7NC-B-6:

1. Does the spatial organization of the structures and other facilities conform to a "typical" plan, as identified by other research (Heite 1984).
2. Does the realized plan resemble that common to owner-occupant sites, which can be documented to some degree from extant structures at such sites, or does it reflect a plan peculiar to the tenant situation, and retrievable largely from archaeological data? (The plan at this site can be identified as conforming or variant; comparison to other research at other tenant sites will be needed to confirm a specific pattern, i.e. Thomas 1983).
3. To what degree does the artifact assemblage express the lower economic status of a tenant, in comparison to owner-occupied sites? Are those patterns in the artifact assemblages, specifically in the distribution of cost-sensitive decorative attributes on whiteware, peculiar to tenants and distinguishable from other socio-economic groups?

Data developed at the H. Grant tenancy can establish base-line evaluations of patterns for this type of site to be compared with future research at other tenant houses and owner occupied site. Current research by DeDOT in downtown Wilmington can be used for comparisons between rural tenants and urban dwellers. In summary, testing has demonstrated that data are present in usable contexts at the H. Grant Tenancy Site to address a number of pertinent research questions current in historical archaeology.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Heite, Louise B. 1984 Archaeological Investigations at the Mudstone Branch Site, Saulsbury Road, Dover, Kent County, Delaware. Delaware Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, Location and Environmental Studies Office, Dover.

South, Stanley 1977 Method and Theory in Historical Archaeology. Academic Press, New York.

Thomas, Ronald A. 1983 Archaeological Data Recovery at an Eighteenth Century Farmstead in Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware. Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc., Newark, Delaware.

Verlanger, C.A. 1961 Dutch Explorers, Traders and Settlers in the Delaware Valley. Philadelphia: Eckel, Henry 1860 Map of Wilmington and Brandywine R.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 1/3 acre

Quadrangle name Wilmington North, Del.-PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 18 448040 44010210
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries and corners of the site are shown on the attached drawing. The UTM position of corner A was measured from the center of the highway bridge across Little Mill Creek on the Wilmington North Quadrangle Sheet (see attached map) and is accurate to plus or minus twenty meters. The UTM coordinates for the remaining corners were then measured on the DelDOT plan at a scale of one inch (continued on attachment)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title William P. Barse

organization Thunderbird Archeological Associates date 2/23/84

street & number Rte. 1, Box 1375 telephone 703-635-3860

city or town Front Royal state VA 22630

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

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Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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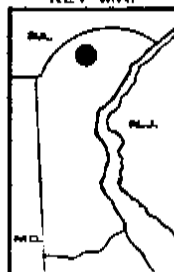
equals twenty-five feet, but are really only as accurate as corner A. The attached drawing also shows grid points for the Delaware State Plane Coordinate System, from the DelDOT plan. The southern boundary ("A" to "E") of the site follows the northern right-of-way margin of the present alignment of the Lancaster Pike. It is expected that there would be road construction disturbance to the south of that line. The eastern boundary of the site ("E" to "D") marks the position where artifacts had fallen to near zero in the test pits. From corner "D", through "C", to "B", the northern boundary of the site follows the lowest points in the drainage swale, which forms a logical natural boundary. It is possible that some remains associated with the site might be located north of this boundary, but artifacts were falling off in this direction, and anything north of the swale would be outside the impact zone, as presently defined. The western boundary of the site ("B" to "A") is at a break point in the slope. From this line to the west, the ground slopes rather steeply toward the channel of Little Mill Creek, and it is projected that this area would not have been occupied.

FIGURE 1

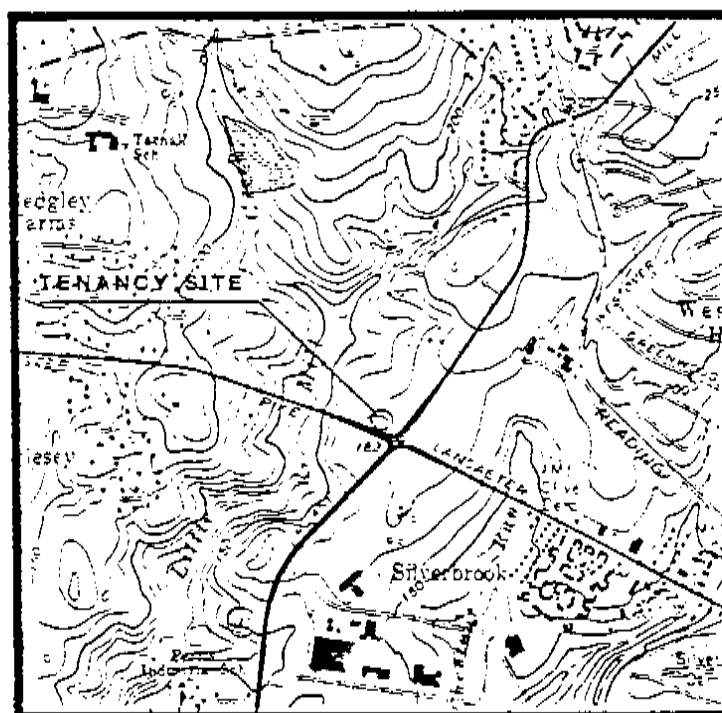
TENANCY SITE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

UTM-18.448040.4401020
WILMINGTON NORTH U.S.G.S. QUAD.

KEY MAP



NEW CASTLE COUNTY,
DELAWARE



0.5 0 0.5 1.0
SCALE IN MILES

1 0 1
SCALE IN KILOMETERS
1-c

FIGURE 2

TENANCY SITE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

